



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

JUL - 5 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DEPUTY CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER
CHIEF, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR OF COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM
EVALUATION
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LEGISLATIVE
AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC
AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR OF NET ASSESSMENT
DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC CAPABILITIES OFFICE
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: 2017 Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs Suicide Prevention Conference

Suicide prevention remains a top priority for the Department. Suicide is complex, has far-reaching effects, and is preventable. Every two years, the Department of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) host a conference, which focuses on the prevention of suicide across both Departments.

This is the only conference specifically addressing military and Veteran suicide at a national level. The conference brings together experts across disciplines for cross-training and dissemination of the latest suicide prevention research and empirical evidence. The DoD and VA have found that a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention, which includes line leader involvement, peer interaction, and appropriate clinical care, when needed, is vital to preventing suicide.

This year the conference will take place at the Marriott Denver Tech Center in Denver, Colorado, from August 1-3, 2017. I ask each of you to make a commitment to support this critically important event. If possible, provide the time and resources necessary for your subject matter experts, line leaders, clinicians, and Service members to participate in this year's conference.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the well-being of our Service members and families.

John M. Mattis



OSD007861-17/CMD010797-17